

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 6, 2006

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-218, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Hobson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Committee on Appropriations
2362B Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Lewis and Hobson,


Last month we joined a bipartisan group of Pacific Northwest lawmakers in a letter asking that you include Section 9013 from the Senate version of H.R. 4939, the Fiscal Year 2006 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill, in the final version of the bill that emerges from conference. We are very concerned that – as of right now – this language is not being included in the final bill.

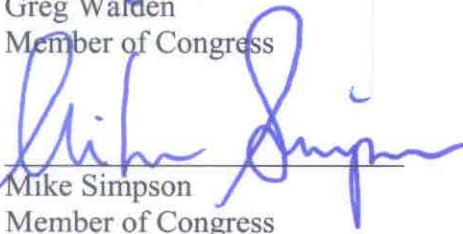
Section 9013 has no budgetary impact and has been scored by the Congressional Budget Office as revenue neutral. However, this language is critical to the residents of the Northwest as it will temporarily delay a misguided administrative proposal that would lead to an electric rate increase of up to 10 percent in our region. This increase would be devastating to the Pacific Northwest, which is still recovering from the nearly 50 percent hike in rates that happened throughout the region in the wake of the 2001-2002 Western electricity crisis. A delay in the implementation of this proposal would allow us time to try and resolve the matter with the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Energy, and the Bonneville Power Administration.

As Northwest House Republicans, we strongly urge you to include this language in the final version of the supplemental.


Thank you for your consideration of our request which is of critical importance to the Pacific Northwest region. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

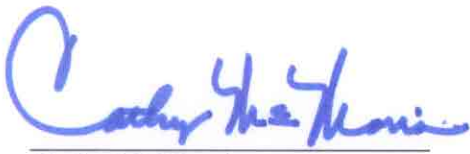
Best regards,


Greg Walden
Member of Congress


Mike Simpson
Member of Congress


Doc Hastings
Member of Congress

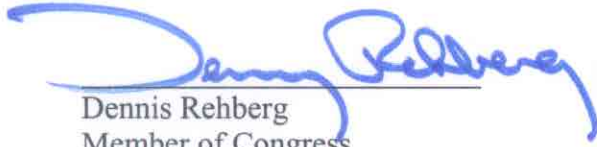

Butch Otter
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Cathy McMorris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Cathy McMorris
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "David Reichert". The signature is bold and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

David Reichert
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dennis Rehberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Dennis Rehberg
Member of Congress